

Rurouni Kenshin



SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Nobuhiro Watsuki

volume

25

FROM WHAT
I HEAR, YOUR
ASSISTANTS ARE
COLLECTING
CARDS LIKE
CRAZY...

SPEAKING OF
CHERRY BLOSSOMS,
THEY'RE QUITE A FAD
AT THE WORKPLACE
RIGHT NOW...

EVERYONE JUST
GETS HOOKED.



和月伸宏

NOBUHIRO WATSUKI



CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE SPRING

THIS SPRING ('99) IT WILL BE FIVE YEARS
SINCE THE START OF RURO-KEN. WOW,
WHAT A SURPRISE.

IN THE SPRING FIVE YEARS AGO, WHEN
THIS NEWCOMER (WHO DIDN'T KNOW HIS
RIGHT FROM HIS LEFT) GOT ARTISTICALLY
STUCK, HE WOULD GO TO SEE THE
EVENING BLOSSOMS AT A NEARBY KINDER-
GARTEN. HE LIFTED HIS SPIRITS BY SAYING
TO HIMSELF, "FLOWERS BLOSSOM, AND
BLOSSOMS SHED!"

WHEN I THINK BACK NOW, IT WAS SO
STUPID.

BUT EVEN AFTER FIVE YEARS, I STILL
THINK, "FLOWERS BLOSSOM, AND BLOS-
SOMS SHED!"

Rurouni Kenshin, which has found fans not only in Japan but around the world, first made its appearance in 1992, as an original short story in *Weekly Shonen Jump Special*. Later rewritten and published as a regular, continuing *Jump* series in 1994, *Rurouni Kenshin* ended serialization in 1999 but continued in popularity, as evidenced by the 2000 publication of *Yahiko no Sakabatô* ("Yahiko's Reversed-Edge Sword") in *Weekly Shonen Jump*. His most current work, *Buso Renkin* ("Armored Alchemist"), began publication in June 2003, also in *Jump*.

RUROUNI KENSHIN
VOL. 25: THE TRUTH
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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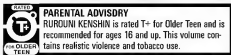
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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Rurouni Kenshin

TM



STORY & ART
BY
**NOBUHIRO
WATSUKI**

MELJI SWORDSMAN ROMANTIC STORY

Vol. 25: THE TRUTH

Once he was *hitokiri*, an assassin, called Battōsai. His name was legend among the pro-Imperialist or "patriot" warriors who launched the Meiji Era. Now, Himura Kenshin is *ruromi*, a wanderer, and carries a reversed-edge *sakabatō* blade, vowing to never kill another soul.

オイボレ



Geizer

鯨波兵庫



Kujiranami Hyōgo

THUS FAR

Those with grudges against Battōsai have gathered to take their revenge. To make matters worse, Kenshin finds out that the mastermind of this new attack is Enishi, the brother of Kenshin's deceased wife Tomoe—who died at Kenshin's own hand. And yet Kenshin decides to fight in order to protect the present, and begins by telling his friends of his past.

Enishi and his crew appear midair above Kamiya Dojo in hot air balloons, but Enishi's true intention is to take away the person most important to Kenshin, thereby casting him into a living hell. Enishi murders Kaoru and flees with Gein while the four other attackers are arrested. Kenshin blames himself for being unable to protect the person dearest to him and exiles himself to the "Fallen Village," where those who have given up on life gather. Aoshi and Misao arrive from Kyoto and are told the dreadful news. But Aoshi is suspicious of the circumstances of Kaoru's death and exhumes her grave. Upon examining the body, it becomes evident that it is a "corpse doll" created by Gein. Kaoru is alive—captive on an isolated island in the Tokyo bay that is used by Enishi's organization as a relay point for their weapons trade. Yuhiko and Misao begin searching for Enishi's hideout in the Arakawa estuary while Aoshi lays a trap in the graveyard, defeating Gein when he comes to retrieve his "corpse doll." Aoshi then heads to the Tokyo hideout with Saitō, hunt...

明神弥彦



Myōjin Yahiko

三条燕



Sanjō Tsubame

神谷薫



Kamiya Kaoru

四乃森蒼紫



Shinomori Aoshi

緋村剣心 (人斬り抜刀斎)



Himura Kenshin
(Hitokiri Battōsai)

雪代緑



Yukishiro Enishi

斎藤一



Saitō Hajime



C
A

S

T



CONTENTS

RUROUNI KENSHIN

Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story
BOOK TWENTY-FIVE: THE TRUTH

ACT 218
Madness Released
7

ACT 219
Yahiko's True Battle (Part 1)
25

ACT 220
Yahiko's True Battle (Part 2)
43

ACT 221
Yahiko's True Battle (Part 3)
61

ACT 222
Yahiko's True Battle (Part 4)
79

ACT 223
Dream, Reality and Illusions
97

ACT 224
The Truth
115

ACT 225
That Moment, a Gust of Wind
133

ACT 226
From a Samurai to the *Shizoku*
153

ACT 227
**Four More Days,
One More Person**
170



仲
月
宏

Act 218

Madness Released





I
SLEPT
WELL.

UHHN—



IT'S
ALREADY
PAST
NOON.

YOU
SLEPT
TOO
MUCH!



...STOP
BEING SO
CHEERFUL.

THEN I
CAN
SPEND THE
WHOLE DAY
WITH AOSHI-
SAMA!

REALLY?
ALL
RIGHT!

CLIP



NOT
HOME
YET.

DUNNO.

WHERE'S
AOSHI-
SAMA?



MISSED
HIM
AGAIN...

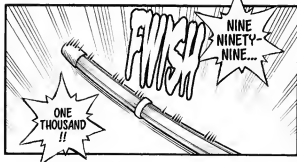
NOO—



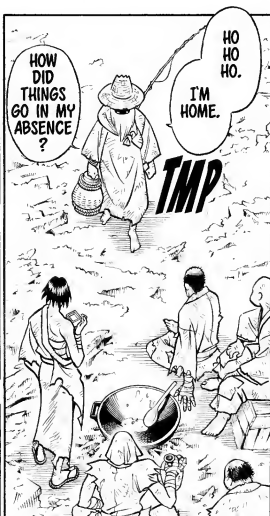
NOW,
ON WITH
THE
SEARCH!

A HA
HA HA.
SORRY.
I STAYED
UP UNTIL
DAWN,
WAITING
FOR AOSHI-
SAMA.

WE
CAN'T DO
MUCH
SEARCHING
NOW.
WE'RE
GOING TO
TAKE A
BREAK
TODAY.







THIS WEEK'S
SUPER DUPER
WONDERFUL
SOUVENIR
IS...

HO HO HO.
OF COURSE
I HAVE ONE.
DON'T GET
SO WORKED
UP.

RUSTLE

SOUVENIR
!

HEY
GEEZER,
NEVER
MIND THAT.
WHERE'S THE
SOUVENIR!

WOO HOO!



THIS
COST ALL
OF MY
MONEY.

POP

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
"WHAT"?

W...
WHAT?





AKABEKO
(TEMPORARY
LOCATION)

酒処 赤心 牛鍋

OH...

YES,
WHAT
CAN I
GET...?

CLAK

CLAK

TSUBAME-
CHAN.
WILL
YOU RUN
AN ERRAND
FOR ME?

...PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
REST A
LITTLE
LONGER.

YOU
MIGHT BE
REOPENED, BUT
YOU WON'T GET
ANY CUSTOMERS
LIKE THIS.

WHAT'S
UP WITH
ALL THIS
GLOOM?

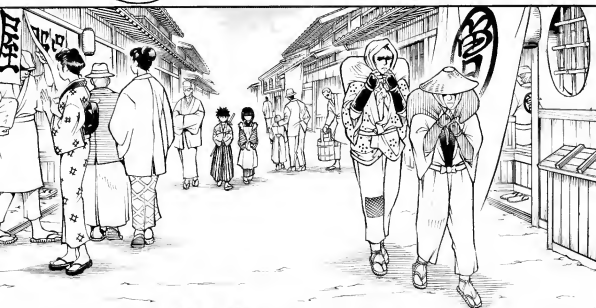
TMP

禁

N-NO,
I'M FINE.

YOU'RE
WORKING
HARD, SO I
CAN'T REST
FOREVER.

RMMB



THIS IS NOT TO
BE REVEALED
UNTIL WE RETRIEVE
KAMIYA KAORU.

IT IS EASIER FOR US
TO TAKE ACTION IF
WE DON'T LET THEM
REALIZE THAT WE
HAVE DISCOVERED
THEIR TRICK.

THAT'S
WHAT WE
DECIDED,
BUT...

GLANCE



...TO
RECOVER
FROM
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT.

YAHIKO-KUN,
YOU
ARE SO
STRONG...

HOW ARE
YOUR
INJURIES?
SHOULD
YOU BE
MOVING
AROUND
LIKE
THIS?

UMM.

I'M NOT
ALL THAT
WELL, BUT
I CAN'T GET
ANYTHING
DONE BY
STAYING
STILL.

...HER
LOOKING
LIKE
THIS.

...I DON'T
WANT
TO SEE...

I
BELIEVED WE
WOULD ALL
SURVIVE AND
SEE EACH
OTHER AGAIN.

BUT...
IT TURNED
OUT THIS
WAY...

WE...

...PROMISED
...

PLP

PLP

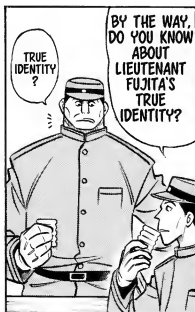
SHAA

伊藤屋 料理

YOU'LL
FEEL
BETTER
WHEN YOU
HEAR MY
NEWS.

IT'S
OKAY. OUR
PROMISE
WON'T BE
BROKEN.





TRUE
IDENTITY
?

BY THE WAY,
DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT
LIEUTENANT
FUJITA'S
TRUE
IDENTITY?

YES. FUJITA FOUND
A LEAD IN A BIG
INVESTIGATION. SO
THE CHIEF HEADED
OUT FIRST THING
THIS MORNING.

OH,
YOU MEAN
LIEUTENANT
FUJITA.

HEH.
BUT THAT'S
SOMETHING
WE BOTTOM
DWELLERS
AREN'T
INVOLVED IN.



REALLY
?!

...AND IS
A SUPERB
SWORDSMAN,
EQUAL EVEN TO
HITOKIRI BATTŌSAI!

HE'S ONE
OF THE FEW
SURVIVING
SHINSENGUMI
CAPTAINS...



...SAI...

...TŌ...

BAT...



BATTŌSAI
!

WHAT
?

BATTŌSAI
!

BATTŌSAI
!

RRR

BATTŌSAIII !!!

RRRRRAS

AH... A A A A

SPORR!! KRT

SOMEONE'S ESCAPING!

THE ONE-ARMED MAN BROKE THROUGH HIS CELL WALL!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!





AUTOMATIC
CUSTOM GRENADE
LAUNCHER!!

BAT...
TŌSAI...

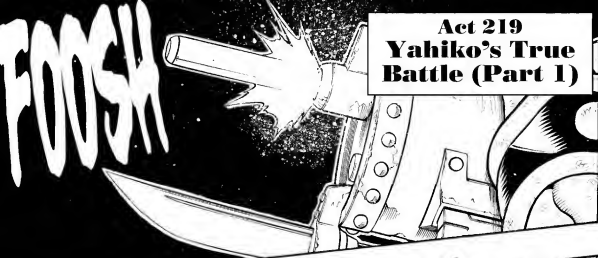
BATTŌSAIIII
!!!

LO...N

Rurouni Kenshin



Act 219
Yahiko's True
Battle (Part 1)



KREEE!

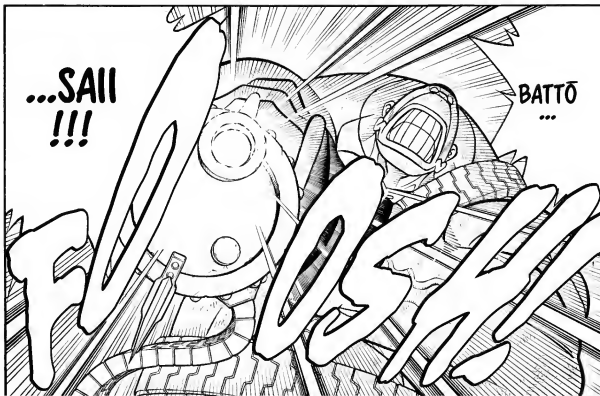
**BATTŌSAI
!!**

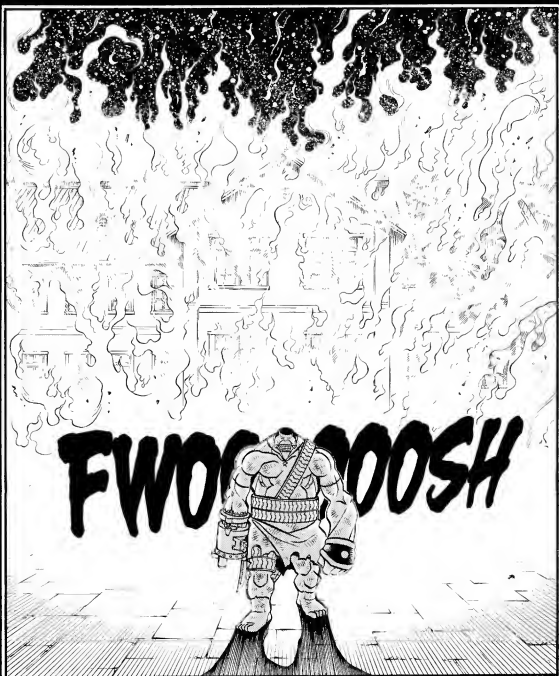
WILL YOU
ALSO ROB
ME OF A
WARRIOR'S
DEATH?!

YOU
PATRIOTS
HAVE
ALREADY
ROBBED ME
OF MY
PRIDE AND
MY WORLD!

**...SAII
!!!**

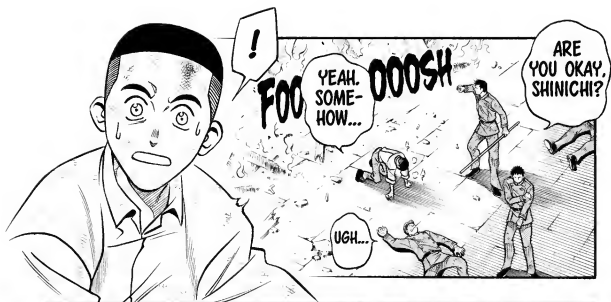
**BATTŌ
...**

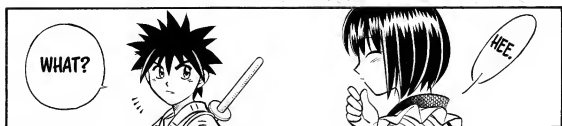
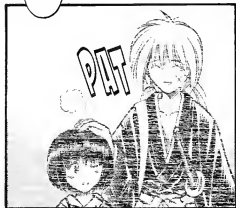




Act 219
Yahiko's True
Battle (Part 1)









YOU'VE
GROWN
BIGGER.

YAHIKO-
KUN...



I REALLY
THOUGHT THAT
YOU GREW.

S...
SORRY.

CRY
ALL YOU
WANT!



...YOU
SAID
WOULD
CHEER
ME
UP...?

WHAT
WAS
IT...



OH...

...YEAH.

LISTEN
AND
CHEER
UP SOME
MORE!

WELL.

YOU
NEEDED
SOME
CHEERING
UP TO BEGIN
WITH. SO I'LL
TELL YOU.

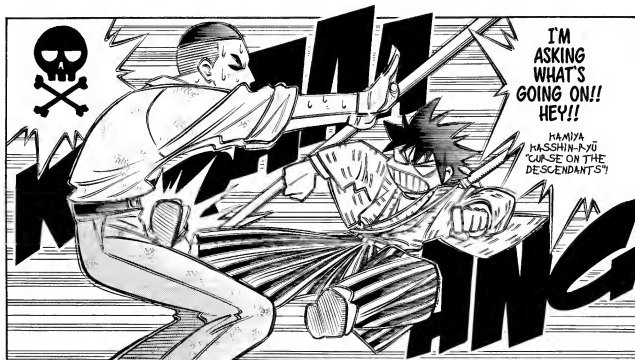
WHY...?

IF YOU'RE
THIS CHEER-
FUL, I DON'T
NEED TO
TELL YOU.



SO
CRAZY...







AND BY THEN, THE TOWN WILL BE BURNED TO THE GROUND—

BUT NO MATTER HOW FAST THEY GO, IT WILL BE AT LEAST AN HOUR BEFORE WE GET ANY REINFORCEMENTS!

THE CHIEF IS OUT WITH HIM. AND THE ASSISTANT CHIEF IS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. THE CHAIN OF COMMAND HAS BROKEN DOWN!

LIEUTENANT FUJITA LEFT THIS MORNING.

THOSE OF US WHO CAN MOVE HAVE SPLIT UP TO NOTIFY NEARBY STATIONS, THE ARMY AND HEADQUARTERS. THE REST OF US ARE EVACUATING THE TOWN.



YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS WORSE!

OOPS.

GYAA!

AAAAH!



CLENCH

SO YOU'RE A ROOKIE.

ALL RIGHT.

NAME!

SHINICHI KOSABURŌ, FIFTH OFFICER!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HUH?

GATHER
ONE-THIRD
OF THE
POLICEMEN
AIDING THE
EVACUA-
TION!!

WE'RE
GOING TO
STOP
HIM!!



STOP
WASTING
TIME,
SHINICHI!
HURRY!

O-
OKAY!

DASH!

HUH?







YAHIKO-KUN!

THAT'S TRUE...

...I WILL HAVE TO FIGHT.

BUT BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE IS HERE...

FSHA



AND TO KEEP WIELDING MY SWORD FOR THE WEAK AND SUFFERING PEOPLE WITHIN MY SIGHT...

I'M SORRY...BUT IT'S SOMETHING I'M DETERMINED TO DO...TO CONTINUE LOOKING FORWARD.

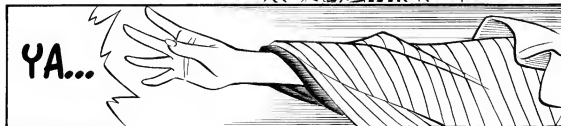


SO DON'T CRY, AND WAIT PATIENTLY.

WE'LL ALL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN!

TMP

I'LL BE FINE!
DON'T WORRY, I JUST TOLD YOU...



YA...

YAHIKO-KUN!!



IT'S
ALREADY CLEAR
THAT POLICE
EQUIPMENT IS
INSUFFICIENT
TO—

DON'T
TELL
ME...

WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?
IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!

Whoooooo



IT'S NOT
IMPOSSIBLE!!

IN THE NARROW
HALLS OF THE
STATION, ONLY
TWO OR THREE
CAN ATTACK HEAD
ON. BUT THIS
AREA IS WIDE
OPEN!!

AND IF
WE RUN
THROUGH
THE SIDES
OF THE
BUILDINGS,
WE CAN
EASILY
TAKE HIS
BACK!!

WE
DEFINITELY
HAVE A
TACTICAL
ADVANTAGE
!!

Dooooo

OON



I WILL
NOT LET
ANYONE
DIE...

...WITHIN
MY
SIGHT!!!

FWA!!!

**BATTŌSAAAA
!!!**



Rurouni Kenshin



Act 220
Yahiko's
True
Battle
(Part 2)

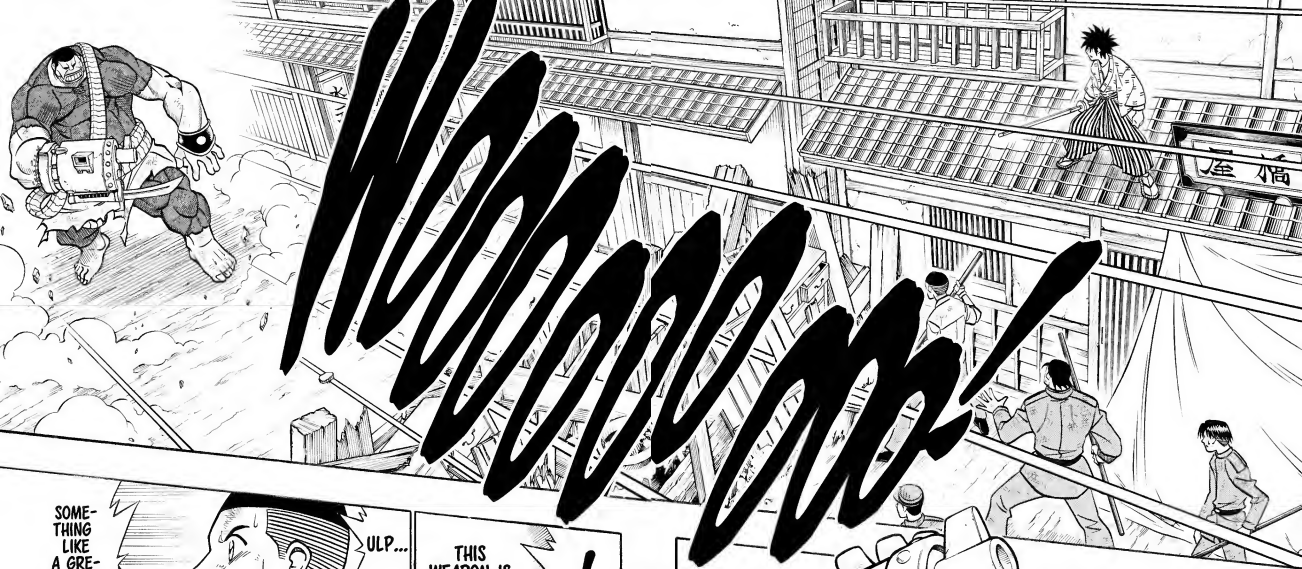
RURONI
KENSIN

るろに 剣心

三条 燕

SANJŌ
TSUBAME

和伸
月宏



SOME-
THING
LIKE
A GRE-
NADE
LAUNCHER
!

ULP...

THIS
WEAPON IS
DIFFERENT.
IT'S NOT A
CANNON.

!

SHINICHI,
WHAT
IS THAT?!



BAT-
TOSAI
!!!





ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS
?!



WHAT
NOW?
HOW
WILL WE
FIGHT
THAT?



...THE
CLOSER
HE WILL
GET TO
THE TOWN!





THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE!

RECKLESS!

HE REALLY
CHARGED!!









...HE
DEFINITELY
WON'T
CONTINUE
DODGING
THOSE
SHOTS—

UNLESS
HE CAN
GO ON
THE
OFFENSIVE
...

KOOSH

I KNEW IT
WAS RECKLESS!

NO, HE'S
DOOMED!

SHINICHI
!!



YAAAA
!!!



FWONK

H...

HOW'S
THAT
?!



BUMSH



— WAIT,
IT HAD
NO
EFFECT!

REEE



OVER
HERE,
WHALE
MOUTH!



**GAAAH
!!!**

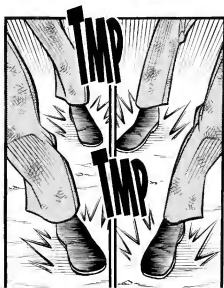
FWIP

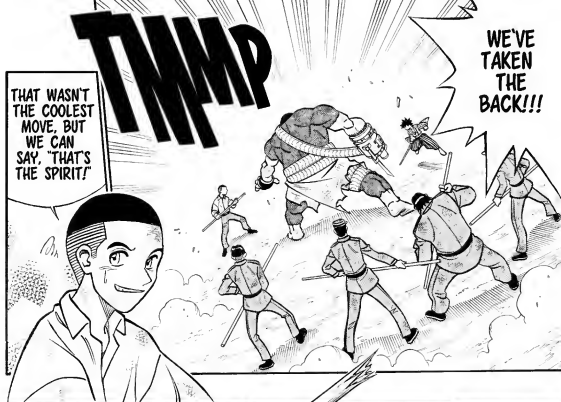
**龍翔閃
抵抗!!**

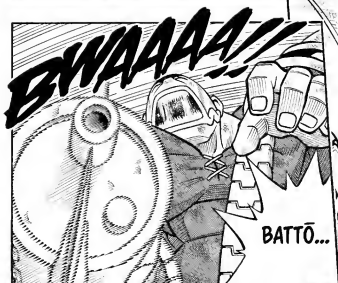
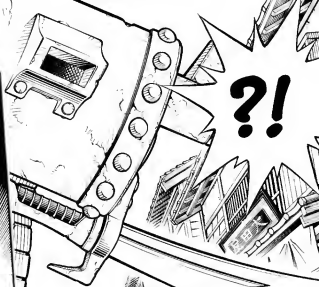
RYŪSHŌSEN
IMITATION!!

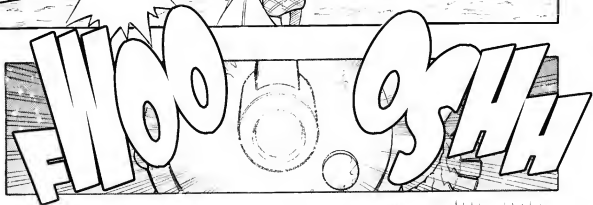






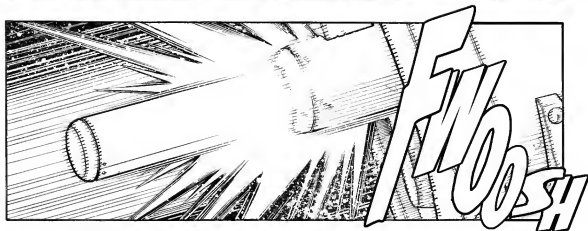






Rurouni Kenshin



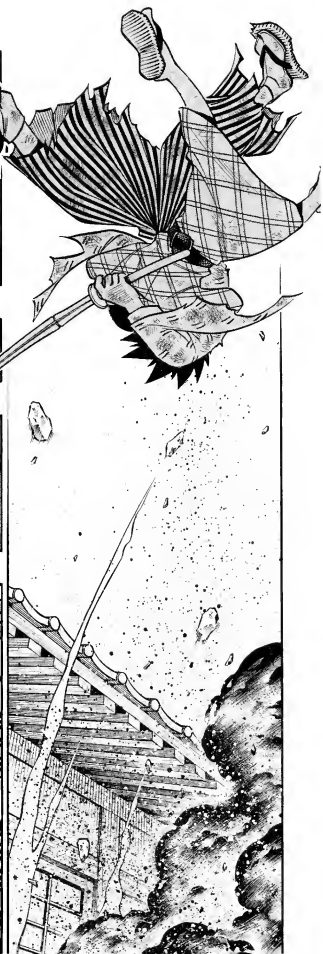


Act 221—Yahiko's True Battle (Part 3)

Act 221—Yahiko's True Battle (Part 3)



伸
月
宏



GAAAAAH
!!!

BATTŌSAI!

KASHAK













WE'LL
LOOK FOR
YOUR DAD
LATER...
...SO RUN
FULL SPEED
TOWARDS
TOWN WHEN
I TELL
YOU.

RIGHT?



YEAH!

HA!

Y...



HEH

GOOD.



ALL
RIGHT. DON'T
TURN BACK.
EVEN IF YOU
GET AFRAID.



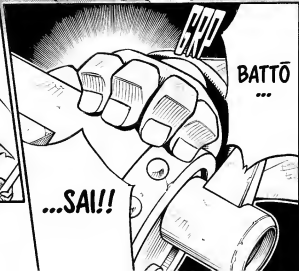
TRUST
ME FOR
NOW.



DON'T
WORRY.
YOU'RE
STRONG.

PAT

YOU DIDN'T
EVEN
CRY ONCE
IN THAT
STORM OF
GRENADES.





I FOUND
YOU.
THERE
YOU
ARE!!!

BA...?!







BATTŌSAIII
!!



DON'T
...



...KENSIN
IS IN THE
MIDST OF
A BATTLE
AGAINST
HIMSELF.

...INTERFERE
WITH ME!!



YAHIKO-KUN...IS
GOING TO DIE...



HELP
YAHIKO-
KUN...

PAT

SOMEBODY...

SOMEBODY
HELP.



PAT

SOMEBODY...



KENSHIN-
SAN...

PLEASE
HELP
YAHIKO-
KUN...

DASH

THE
NUMBER ONE
SWORDSMAN
YAHIKO-KUN
ADMIRE...

KENSHIN-
SAN!!!

DASH

Rurouni Kenshin





IN THE
SEA, AS WE
EXPECTED...

AN
ISOLATED
ISLAND...

THAT
TOOK LESS
TIME THAN
EXPECTED.

NO, IT
WAS JUST
ABOUT
RIGHT.

WOW,
JUST THE
TWO OF
THEM.

THERE
WERE AT
LEAST
50!

NO
PLACE
FOR US.

SHALL
WE
GO...?

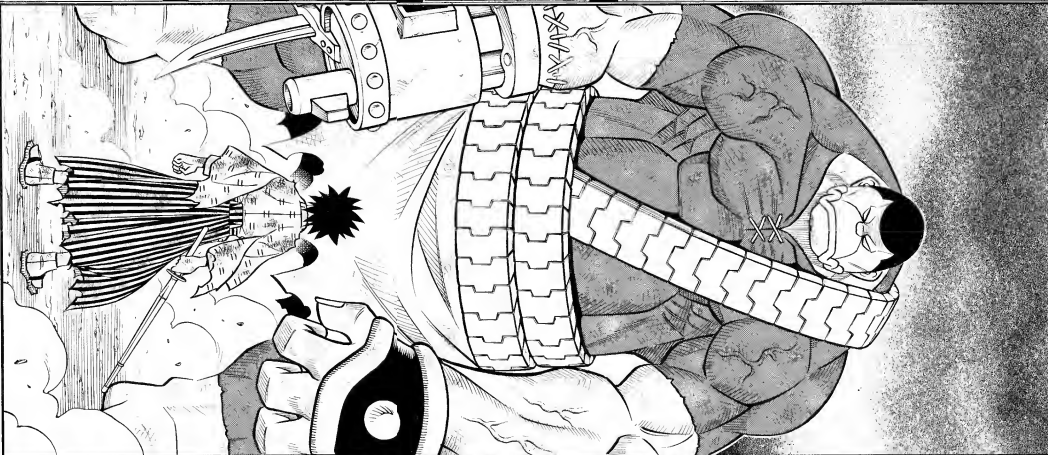
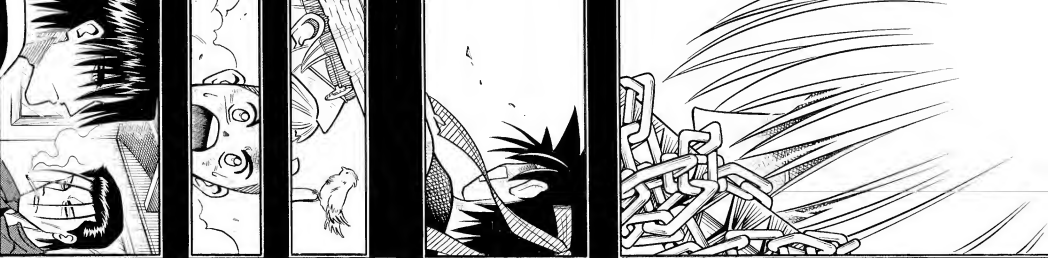
YES.

THAT IS
WHERE
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI...
...AND
KAMIYA
KAORU
ARE.

Act 222—Yahiko's True Battle (Part 4)

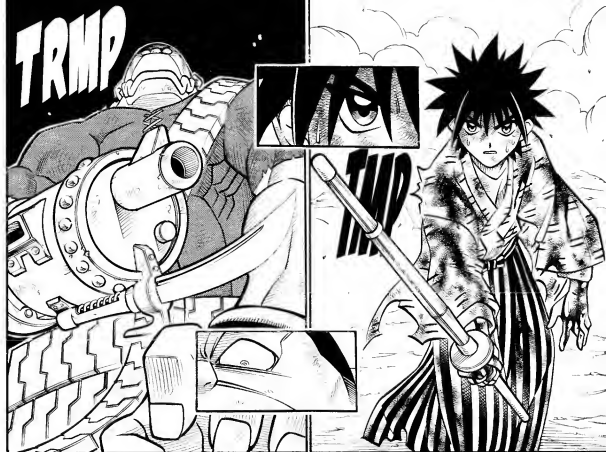


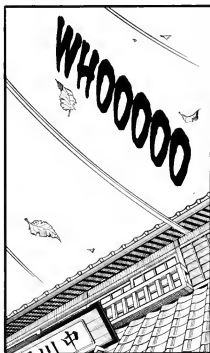
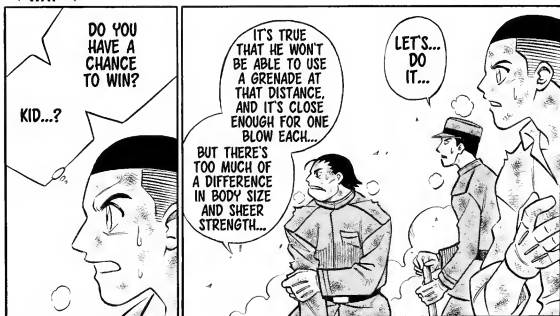




Act 222

Yahiko's True Battle (Part 4)





LOOK
FORWARD!!

DO NOT
COWER!

...AND TO
EVENTUALLY...
...SURPASS
IT...

...THAT I
SEE EVERY
TIME I
CLOSE
MY EYES...
IN ORDER
TO CATCH
UP TO THE
BACK...

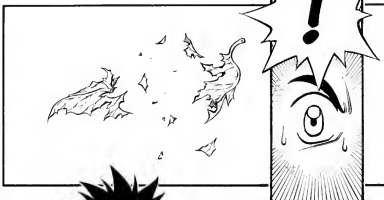
...LIES
FORWARD.
THAT
PATH...

...FORWARD
!!

I CAN
ONLY
GO...

SNAPP

◀ READ
THIS
WAY ▶





KIAA

LET'S
GO!!

F

GAAAH
!!

KAMIYA KASSHIN-RYŪ
SECRET DEFENSIVE FORM!

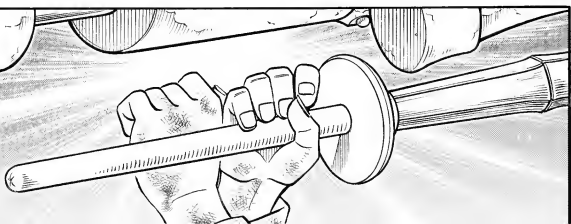
神谷活心流
奥義の防り

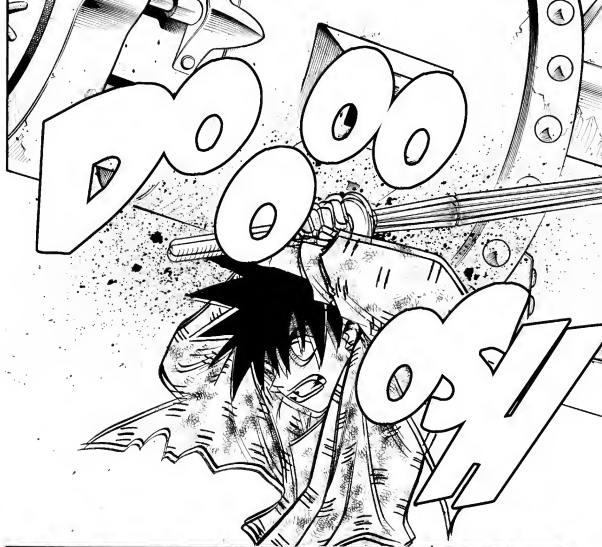
HADOME (BLADE
HALTING)!!

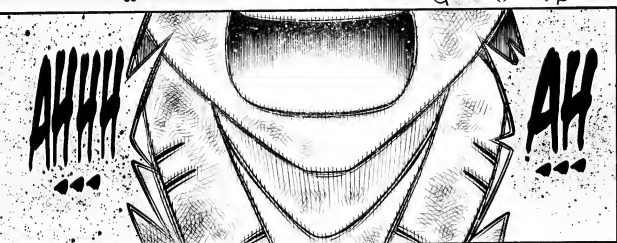
刀止め!!

NO WAY!
THAT'S
RECKLESS!!

CATCHING THE
BLADE WITH
THE BACK
OF HIS
HANDS!?







奥義の攻め

SECRET
OFFENSIVE
FORM

刃渡り!!!

HAWATARI
(BLADE
CROSSING)!!

THERE IS A
VITAL POINT
UNDER
THE ARM.

THE
IMPACT
GOES
THROUGH
THE RIBS
TO THE
LUNGS.

THOUGH
HE MAY BE
CONSCIOUS...

...HE WILL
NOT BE ABLE
TO MOVE A
FINGER DUE
TO THE
DIFFICULTY IN
BREATHING.

GAH...

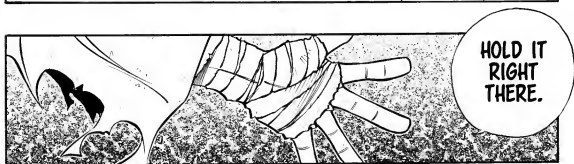


BAT...

...TŌSAI
!!



AAH!!



**KENSHIN-
SAN...!**

WHAT
BUSINESS
DO YOU
HAVE
HERE ALL
ALONE,
GIRLIE?

LOOOOG

THIS IS
A PLACE
WHERE
OUTSIDERS
ARE NOT
WANTED.

STEPPING
IN HERE
REQUIRES
A GOOD
DEAL OF
COURAGE.

**KENSHIN-
SAN.**

Rurouni Kenshin





Act 223—Dream, Reality and Illusions

THE
KENSHIN-SAN
I KNOW IS
A KIND AND
STRONG
PERSON!

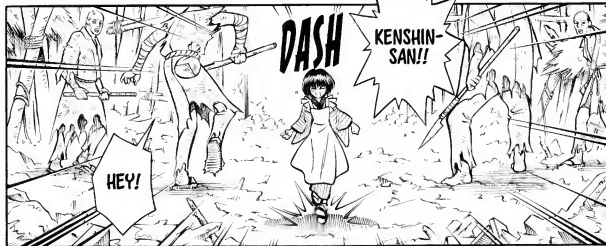
YOU'RE
WRONG!
KENSHIN-
SAN
ISN'T LIKE
THAT!



DASH

KENSHIN-
SAN!!

HEY!



ANOTHER
VISITOR
FOR THAT
SAMURAI...

SHEESH
...

KUMA-
SAN...

HEY!

GRAB

LET
ME SEE
KENSHIN-
SAN!

LET
ME
GO!

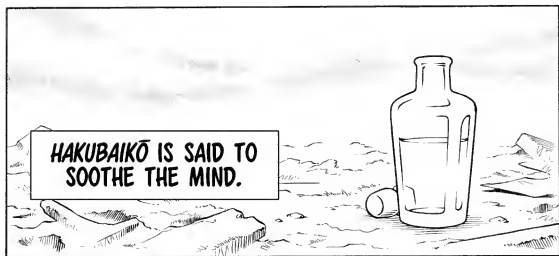




Act 223
Dream, Reality
and Illusions

仲宏
和月







...I'LL
HAVE TO
PROTECT
THEM.

SO I
THOUGHT,
EVEN IF IT
COSTS MY
LIFE...

I SHALL ALSO
GIVE YOU
MY MOST
PRECIOUS
KNOWLEDGE.



FROM NOW
ON, YOUR NAME
IS TO BE
"KENSIN."

NO.

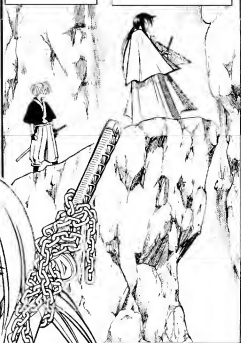
LET ME
ASK YOU
A QUESTION.
HAVE YOU
USED HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ TO KILL
ANYONE?

THE
PEOPLE ARE
SUFFERING!
THEY'RE AFRAID!
WHATEVER
REASONS YOU
MAY HAVE, THEY
MUSTN'T BE
ABANDONED!!

WHEN DO
WE USE
OUR
SWORDS,
IF NOT
NOW?

DOESN'T
HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ TEACH US
TO PROTECT
FROM
SUFFERING?

THEN...
CAN
YOU?





...IF WHEN
I FINALLY
LAY DOWN
MY BLOOD-
STAINED
BLADE...
THERE
TRULY IS
AN ERA OF
PEACE...
THEN...



YOU TRULY...
MAKE BLOOD
RAIN...

THEY SAY
IT "RAINS
BLOOD" AT
SCENES OF
BATTLE...



...GO ON
KILLING
PEOPLE
LIKE THIS...

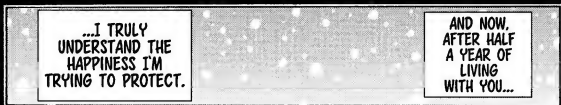
WILL
YOU
JUST...



BUT IN
TRUTH, UNTIL
NOW, I HAD
TO IDEA
WHAT THIS
"HAPPINESS"
REALLY WAS...

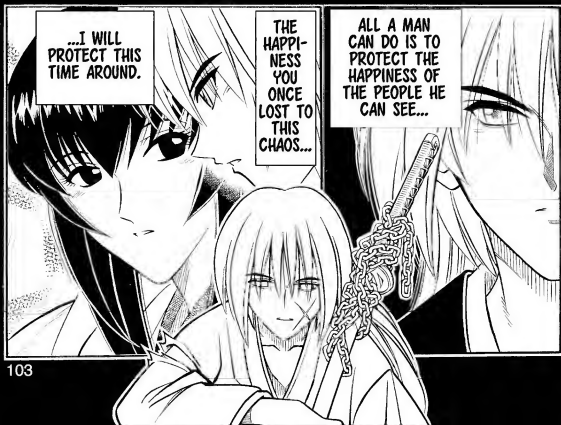
I JOURNEY
CEASELESSLY
TOWARD
THE NEW
ERA WHERE
EVERY MAN
CAN FIND
HAPPINESS...

ALONE
BUT FOR
HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ, MY
SWORD,
AND
DEATH...



...I TRULY
UNDERSTAND THE
HAPPINESS I'M
TRYING TO PROTECT.

AND NOW,
AFTER HALF
A YEAR OF
LIVING
WITH YOU...



...I WILL
PROTECT THIS
TIME AROUND.

THE
HAPPY-
NESS
YOU
ONCE
LOST TO
THIS
CHAOS...

ALL A MAN
CAN DO IS TO
PROTECT THE
HAPPINESS OF
THE PEOPLE HE
CAN SEE...

I
KILLED
HIM!!!



UNTIL THE NEW
ERA COMES,
WHERE EVERYONE
WILL NURTURE
THE SMALL
HAPPINESS TOMOE
TAUGHT ME...

...I WILL
KEEP WIELDING
MY SWORD.

IF I
THROW
DOWN MY
SWORD
NOW...

...IT WILL
NEGATE THE
MEANING
OF ALL
THE LIVES
I'VE TAKEN.

AT THAT
TIME...

BUT...WHEN
THE NEW
ERA
COMES...

YOU'LL
SOON SEE
HOW NAIVE
YOU'RE
BEING.

TRY
BEING A
SWORDSMAN
WITH THAT
AT YOUR WAIST.

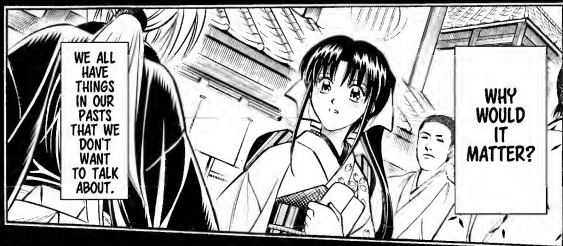
LIVE BY THE
SWORD AND
DIE BY THE
SWORD.
THAT'S THE
ONLY PATH
YOU HAVE.

AFTER
ALL THE
MEN
YOU'VE
KILLED,
WHY RUN
AWAY NOW?

...COME—

...AND
STILL
YOU'RE ABLE
TO BELIEVE
YOUR
OWN SWEET
LIES...

WHEN
THAT
SWORD
BREAKS...



WE ALL
HAVE
THINGS
IN OUR
PASTS
THAT WE
DONT
WANT
TO TALK
ABOUT.

WHY
WOULD
IT
MATTER?



I'M NOT A
"YOUNG ONE"!!
I'M MYŌJIN
YAHIKO—TOKYO
SAMURAI!!



I'M NOT
ASKING
BATTŌSAI
TO STAY.

I'M
ASKING
YOU,
THE
RUROUNI
TO...



I WANT
TO BE
STRONG.





NOW I'M
JUST SAGARA
SANOSUKE.
FIGHTING
ENTHUSIAST.

JUST LIKE
YOU'RE NOT
HITOKIRI
BATTOSAI
ANYMORE.



I
CANNOT
LOSE!!!

I
WILL
NOT
LOSE!



KEEP
PLAYING AT
"RUROUNI."



A HITOKIRI
IS A HITOKIRI
UNTIL DEATH.

I'LL
WATCH
YOU...
FROM
HELL.



I GOT
TO MEET
ALL OF
YOU.

IF
NOTHING
ELSE...

WILL YOU
BOYS HELP
GET ME
AWAY
FROM
KANRYŪ?



E-E...

ME-

SPARE



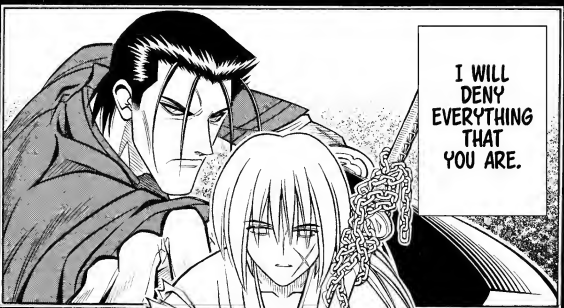
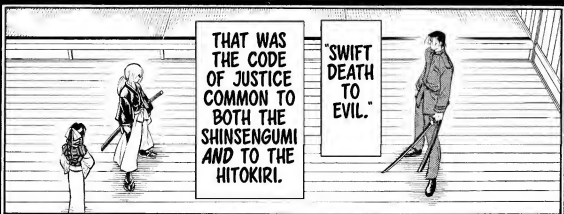
...TO LAY
IT BY
THEIR SIDE.
TO GIVE
THEM
PRIDE.

I
WANTED
THE
TITLE,
"MOST
POWERFUL,"
FOR
THEM...



...DON'T
LET
ANYONE
BEAT ME
TO IT.

UNTIL
I COME
KILL
YOU...





SHISHIO-
SAMA IS
INCAPABLE
OF
LOSING!!



TOO
TIRED...

NO
MORE...

SSH

KENSHIN
!!

TMP

KENSHIN-
SAN...

PLIP

PLIP

TSK

HAA

HAA

Rurouni Kenshin



YAHIKO-KUN
IS FIGHTING
HIM, TRYING
TO PREVENT HIM
FROM GETTING
INTO TOWN.

ONE OF
THE FOUR
ARRESTED THE
OTHER DAY HAS
ESCAPED AND IS
RAMPAGING...

BUT HIS
WOUNDS
HAVEN'T
HEALED
YET...

AND
THERE IS A
HUGE GAP IN
THEIR SIZE
AND
STRENGTH...

KEN...
SHIN-
SAN...

Act 224—The Truth

Act 224—The Truth







STAND
UP ONCE
MORE...

ONCE
MORE...



...YAHIKO-
KUN...

PLEASE
HELP...



KUMA-SAN,
SORRY TO
BOTHER YOU,
BUT WILL
YOU ESCORT
THIS YOUNG
LADY
OUT?

PAT PAT

GEEZER
!

THAT'S
ENOUGH,
LITTLE
MISS.

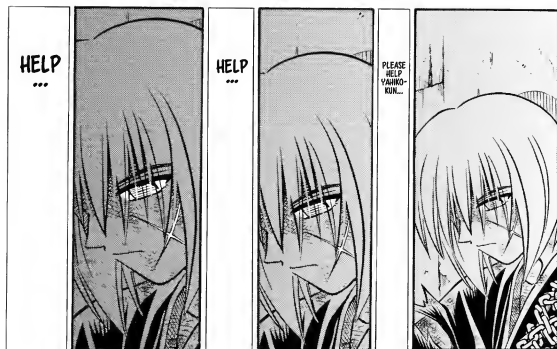
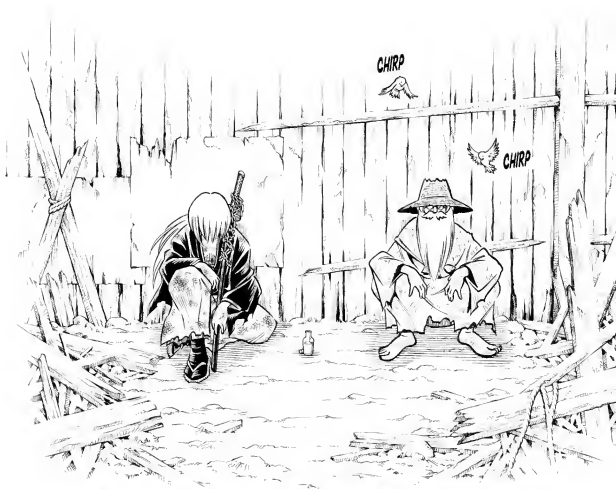
PAT

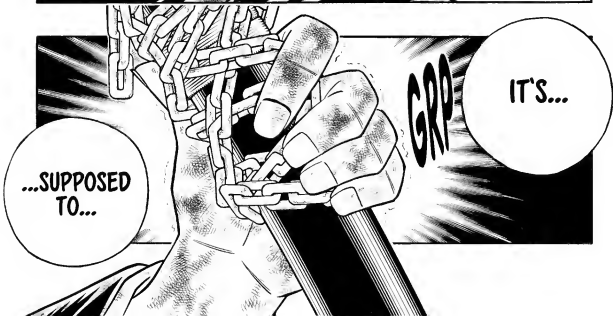
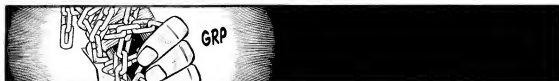
PLE...

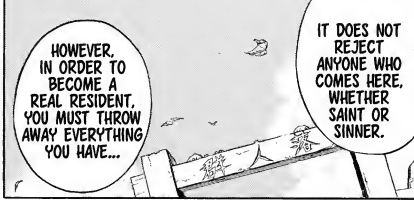
...PLEASE
...

HEY,
SCRAM!

TSK







HOWEVER,
IN ORDER TO
BECOME A
REAL RESIDENT,
YOU MUST THROW
AWAY EVERYTHING
YOU HAVE...

IT DOES NOT
REJECT
ANYONE WHO
COMES HERE,
WHETHER
SAINT OR
SINNER.



...THIS
PLACE.

YOU WILL STAND
UP ONCE AGAIN
AND LEAVE WITH
WHAT YOU CAN'T
THROW AWAY IN
YOUR HAND...

IF YOU
HAVE EVEN
ONE THING
YOU CANNOT
COMPLETELY
THROW AWAY...

IT IS
INSUFFICIENT
TO JUST
"LOSE" IT...

THE
FALLEN
VILLAGE.



...NO...



YOU
WILL,
TOO...



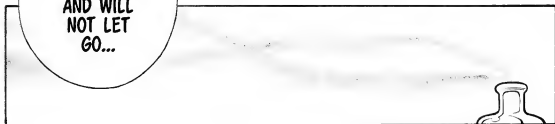
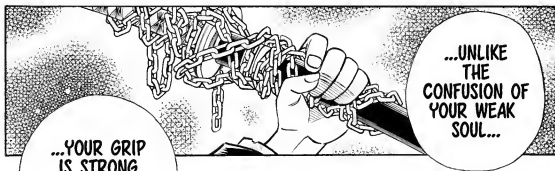
...HASN'T
BEEN
FOUND...

IT...

...CANNOT
BE
FOUND...

THE
CRIMES
I HAVE
COMMIT-
TED...

THE WAY
TO REPAY
MY CRIMES
AS A
HITOKIRI...





YET IF
THERE IS
SOMETHING
YOU CANNOT
LET GO OF
EVEN NOW...

LOSING
WHAT IS
MOST
DEAR
TO
YOU...

YOUR
SOUL AND
BODY
EXHAUSTED...

NO
MATTER
WHAT
OTHERS
MIGHT SAY,
THAT IS
YOUR
TRUTH...

ALL A
MAN CAN DO
IS PROTECT THE
HAPPINESS OF
THE PEOPLE HE
CAN SEE.

T
H
E

T
R
U
T
H

...

WITH A
SWORD, THE
PEOPLE WITHIN
MY SIGHT CAN
AT LEAST BE
PROTECTED.

THE PEOPLE
ARE SUFFERING!
THEY'RE AFRAID!
WHATEVER REASONS
YOU MAY HAVE,
THEY MUSTN'T BE
ABANDONED!!



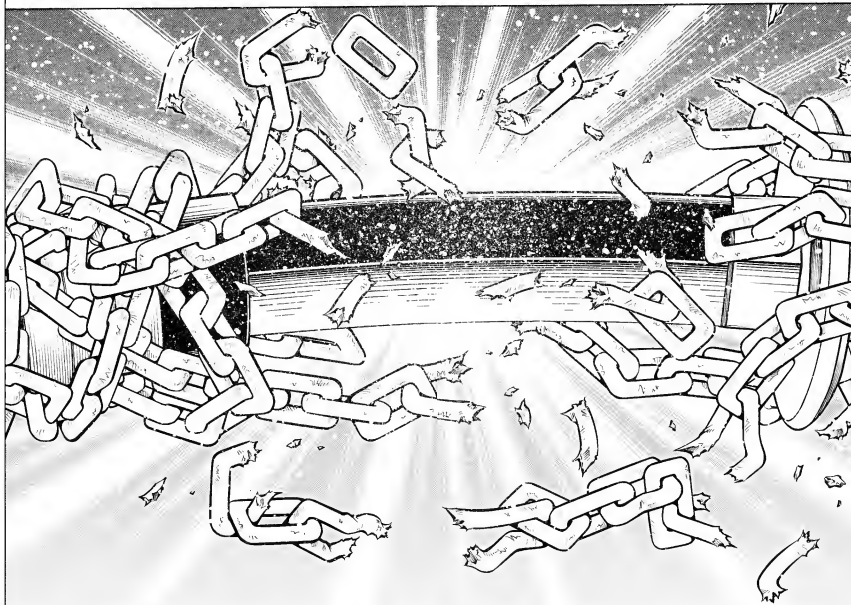
NOW—

THERE...
THAT
SHOULD
BE
ENOUGH
LOOKING
INTO THE
PAST...





**..YOUR
RETURN!!!**



**ARE
AWAITING..**



HE DIDN'T EVEN
TWITCH WHEN THAT
FEATHER-HEAD AND
THAT CHEERFUL GIRL
CAME TALKING ABOUT
AVENGING SOMEONE.

CHIRP



CHIRP

BUT HOW
DID THAT
SAMURAI
MANAGE
TO GET UP?

THAT WILL
NOT REACH HIS
HEART. NO
MATTER HOW
LOUD YOU YELL...

"REVENGE"
IS NOT HIS
TRUTH.



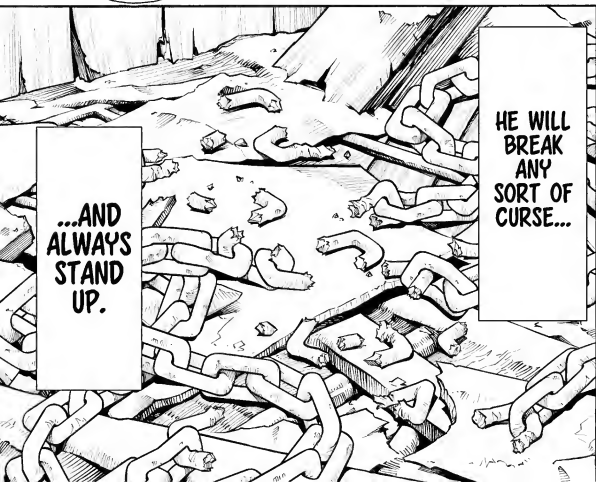
THAT IS HIS
TRUTH, SO HE
WILL STAND UP IN
ORDER TO ANSWER
THAT PLEA.



BUT IF
THERE IS A
VOICE ASKING FOR
HELP, EVEN THE
SOFTEST VOICE
WILL DEFINITELY
REACH HIM...

...AND
ALWAYS
STAND
UP.

HE WILL
BREAK
ANY
SORT OF
CURSE...



"FREE TALK"

Gyaaaaaa!! I make a sudden appearance screaming like Fujiko Fujio A-sensei (aka Motô Abiko). Long time no see, this is Watsuki. *Manga Michi* by Fukiko Fukiô A is always a must read for a manga artist with self-doubt. I read it over just now, and have recharged myself with power. One more time, Gyaaaaaa!!

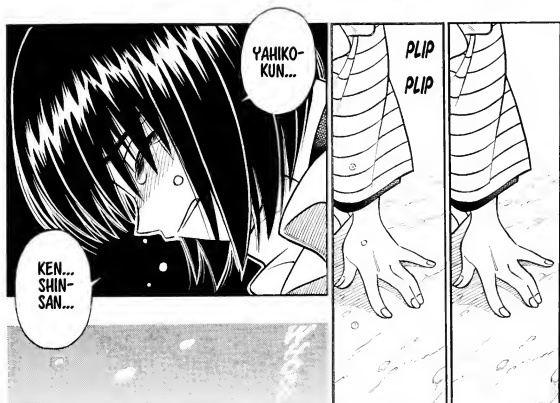
We'll start with the usual talk about figures and games. In terms of European figures, the *X-Men* series from Toy Biz has ended, and the McFarlane toys are heading more and more in a creature direction, and I am a bit disappointed. The Japanese figures tend to be very well made, but have few movable parts or gimmicks. Or they are the complete opposite with too many attachments and things. Watsuki feels action figures should be both good for displaying and good for playing with, so though I can see the makers' effort, I would like one more try. I'll stop here. Wait, who do I think I am? I'm sorry! I'm looking forward to them! Please keep working hard! So, the "Gachapon" I said I might get hooked on, I've most definitely gotten hooked on. Also, I really like the Gfn and B-3 Gfn of *Gundam* from Bandai's HG (high grade), and Neo Getter Robo (I love the second series of the OAV version of the original *Getter*). *Samurai Spirits* (Nanase Aoi-sensei version!) from the Yujin SR (Super Real), "Natsu Robo Museum" (Machine Blaster and Atlanger!) have all got me so hooked I think, "Is there someone out there reading my mind and coming up with the line-up?" Good!

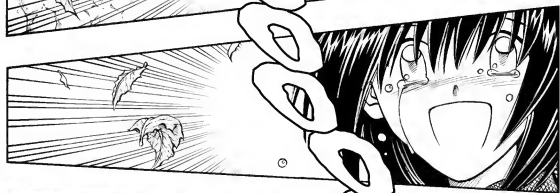
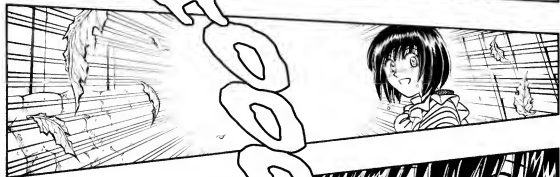
In terms of games, I've gotten further away from the arcade recently, and haven't played much there at all. I did acquire a Dreamcast, so I've played a bit of *Power Stone* from CAPCOM. But I keep getting thoroughly beat by my assistants, making me think, "Are you releasing all of your daily grudges against me here?" Of course, I am still limited in my time, but there are two titles I am interested in, and am contemplating buying them. At the time this volume is published in Japan, I will probably have already made a decision and have taken action, so I will write the results in the next volume. One of the two is a girly game. Watsuki has finally fallen! More like, have you crossed the line, Nobuhiro?! Is there any hope for a humanity that keeps crumbling as I approach 30? Please tune in to the next volume.

Change in topics. As I touched on in my author's note, it is the cherry blossom season. Last year I was so busy I had to forgo it, but I plan to go see evening blossoms this year. Viewing parties are not bad, but possibly due to my age, I feel like being quietly charmed by the evening blossoms. I will shave so that I will not get questioned by the police (happened before), and I'll have a canned coffee in my hand because I can't drink alcohol. I will watch the petals falling, remembering the days when I had just started the series, building up the tension, cranking up the voltage, advancing myself further on the manga road. Therefore, the closing will be, for the third time, the scream of my soul. GYAAAA!!

See you in the next volume.

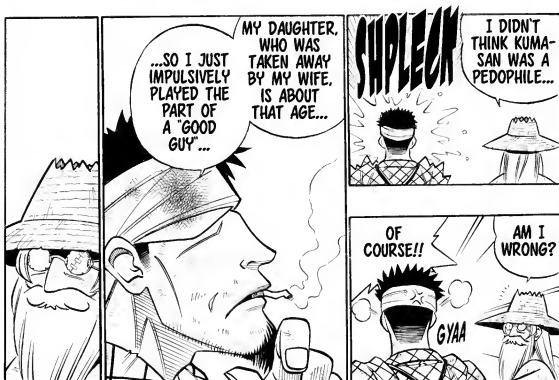
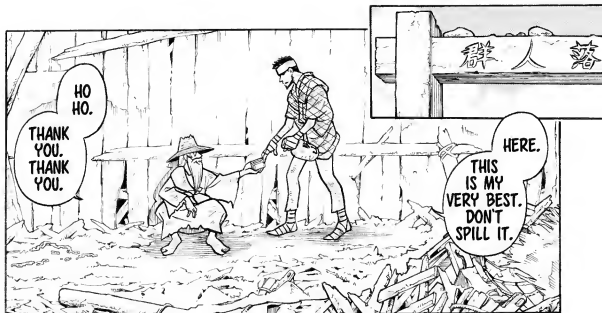


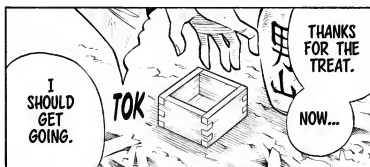
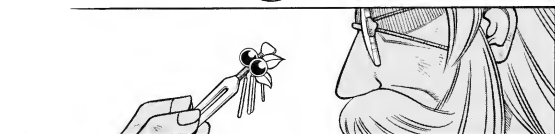




Act 225
That Moment, a Gust of Wind

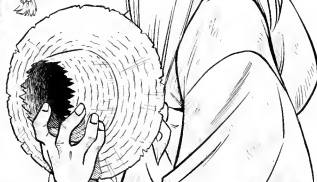








NO, I'M
VISITING
HER
GRAVE.



OH, THE
GEEZER HAS
A FAMILY TO
GO HOME
TO, HUH?

HEH



...YOUR
DAUGHTER'S
?



IS THAT
HAIRPIN...

A LARGE
CITY ALWAYS HAS
A PLACE LIKE
THIS, SO I'LL
BOTHER THEM
THERE.

LET'S SEE. I
THINK I'LL
STAY THERE
A BIT...

...AH,
NEVER
MIND.

SO,
WHEN WILL
YOU COME
BACK?

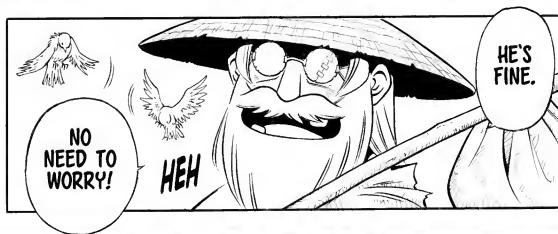
HO HO.
WELL, I HAVE
NO SKILL IN
SWORDS OR WIT,
BUT I'VE ALWAYS
HAD THAT.

WELL,
YOU CAN BE
KIND TO ANYONE
UNCONDITIONALLY,
SO YOU'LL
DO FINE
ANYWHERE.

IS
THAT
RIGHT...



HE IS MY DAUGHTER'S HUSBAND, WHO
WATCHED OVER HER UNTIL HER END...







...SAI!!!

BATTŌ
...

SHAAAAAASH



SPLIT PLAT



CRASH!



BATTŌSAI
!!!

SHAAK



AAGH
!!





THAT'S
ENOUGH
!!



BATTŌSAI
!!!



HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA



**THAT'S
ENOUGH.
PLEASE STOP!**

**STOP
THIS
MAN!**

**SOMEONE,
ANYONE!**



**HE'S NOT A
MAN TO BE
WASTEFULLY
MURDERED
HERE!!**

**HE WILL
GROW UP
AND BE OF
GREAT USE
TO THE
PEOPLE!**

**THAT KID
WILL GET
BIGGER!**



**SOMEONE
!!**



ガッ

バ

バ

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バ

バ

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU—

飛天御剣流

てんみづるきりゅう

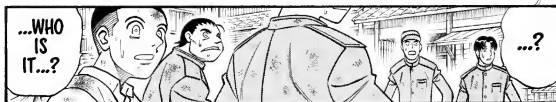
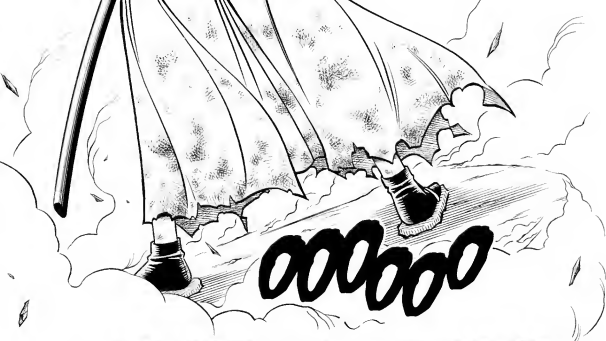


九頭龍閃!!

す
りゅう
せん

KUZU-
RYUSEN
(NINE-
HEADED
DRAGON)!!





**RETURNS
!!!**

**HIMURA
KENSIN**
—

The Secret Life of Characters (48)

—Geezer—

The episodes with the Geezer where "the main character sits amongst the homeless" could at one glance be seen as being influenced by *Spawn*. So then, the popular theory is that Geezer is the mysterious old man, Cagliostro, who gives advice to *Spawn*. But this is dead wrong. The actual American comic it is influenced by is *Silver Surfer* by Moebius. So then, the motif (especially concerning the return of the main character) is actually "Now go, Robot!" a story by Ōishi Makoto-sensei, targeted at younger elementary school kids. In this story, a toy robot falls off a moving truck, and starts a journey to find its owner. The robot that gets dirty and damaged is Kenshin, and the dump he gets thrown into is the Fallen village, and the empty milk can he meets there is the Geezer. (By the way, the stuffed teddy bear missing one eye is Kuma). "Now go, Robot!" was recommended to Watsuki by my older brother, and I was in high school when I read it. Honestly speaking, I was moved to tears. There also is "A Witch in the Classroom" (this one is so sad, I cried) and the like, all wonderful works by Ōishi Makoto-sensei, that do not allow me to discount children's books. Kenshin's return, in the end, can only be accomplished by himself. My intention from the beginning was to have Geezer just give a light shove forward, but did it go well...? As I wrote in the Tamoe piece, lack of time, willpower, and endurance is a big problem for me.

Geezer shows up once more in this series. He happens to have quite an important role.

There is no real model in terms of design. When I considered that he is homeless, that he has an unusual personality, and that he does not show his true thoughts easily, he turned out like this. I did realize that he is very similar to Grandpa Bob in *BOY—Boy—* by Umezawa Haruto-sensei, but that was only after I finished. I thought to myself, I should broaden my creative scope a bit more.



—TAKEN FROM SHINICHI KOSABURŌ'S REPORT—

...WHAT
HAD JUST
HAPPENED.



HONESTLY,
I HAD
NO IDEA...

I THOUGHT
LIGHTNING HAD
HIT THE GROUND
IN FRONT
OF ME, BUT
THAT WASN'T IT.

AN
INSTANTANEOUS
FLASH, A GUST
OF WIND, AND
A ROARING
SOUND...

...AND A
SWORDSMAN
ENTERED
AT THE
VERY EDGE
OF MY FIELD
OF VISION.



THE NEXT
MOMENT, THE
GIANT WAS ON
THE GROUND,
BELLY UP...



...WAS
TRULY...



HIS
DEMEAN-
OR...

Act 226

From a Samurai to the Shizoku

...M
A
J
E
S
T
I
C
!!

和伸
月宏

IT
SEEMS...

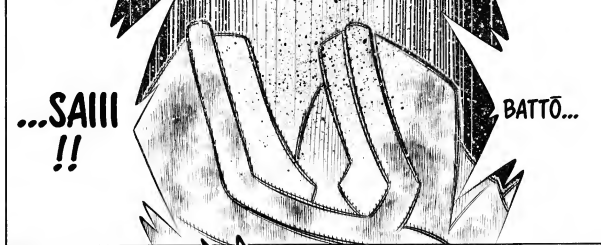
...HE'S
FOUND
THE
ANSWER.

WELL...

WHO
KNOWS
...

LET'S
TEND
YOUR
WOUNDS!

ALL
RIGHT
HIMURA.
LET'S
GO!



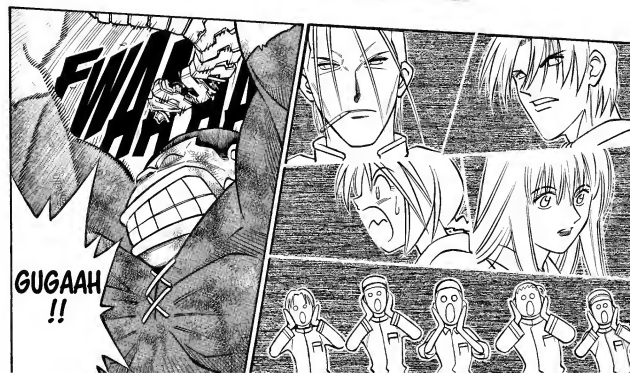
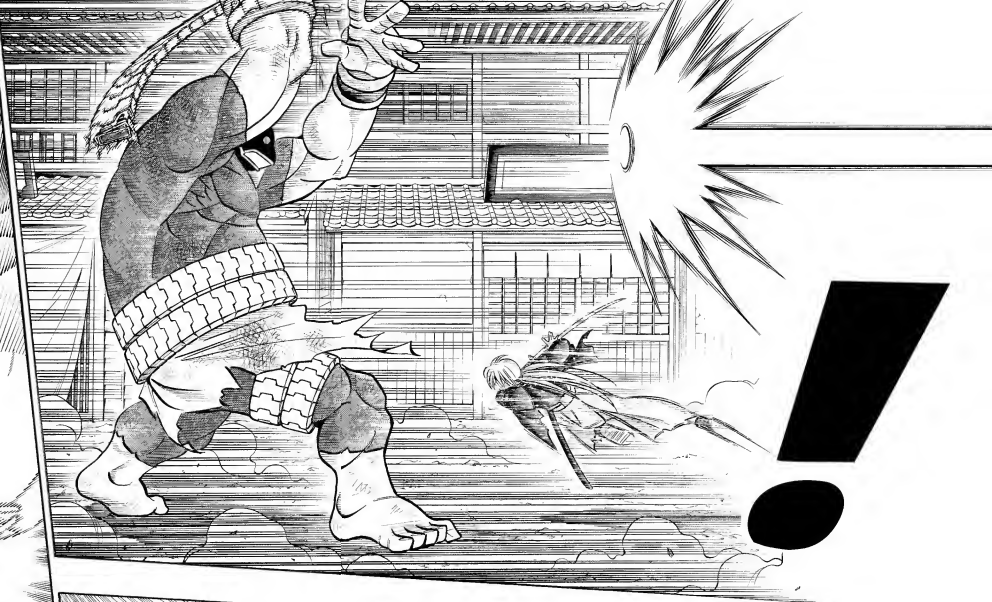


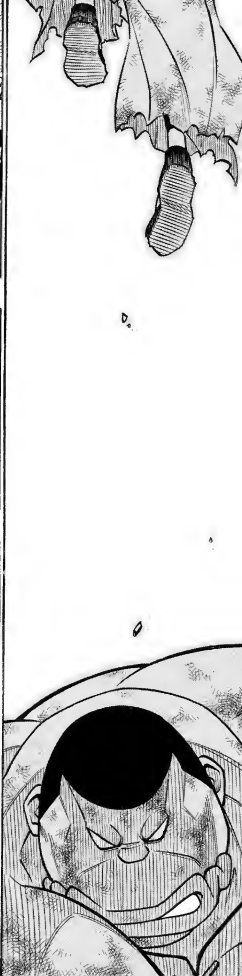
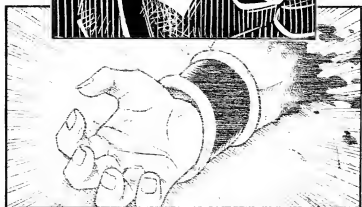
飛天御剣流

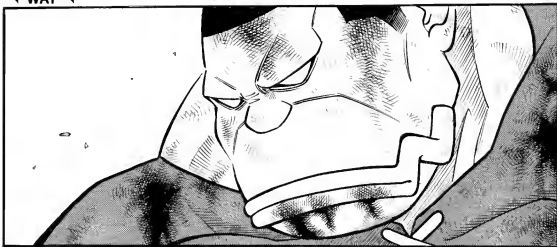
HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU

龍翔閃

RYUSHOSEN!







EXPERIENCING
THE TRAUMA
AGAIN LET
HIM REGAIN
HIS SANITY...

THE LOSS OF
HIS RIGHT
ARM WAS
THE TRIGGER
TO HIS
MADNESS...



! HIS
EYES
CHANGED...



...KENSIN
MADE HIM
REGAIN IT.

OR...



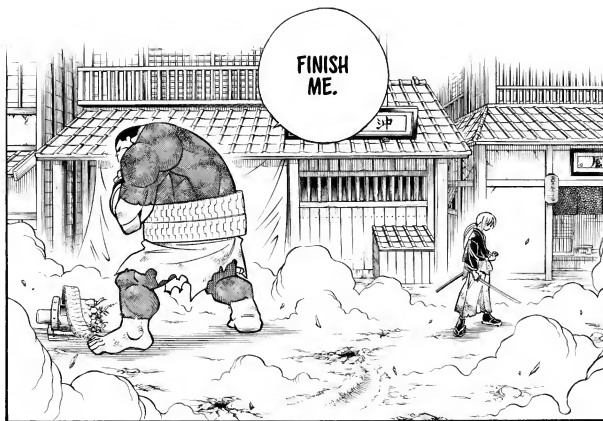
CUT
OFF HIS
LEFT
ARM?

SO, HOW
WILL YOU
ADVANCE
NOW?



HMPH...

"GO BACK
TO THE
START."



FINISH
ME.

AND NOW YOU
HAVE TAKEN
MY GRAVE
FROM ME...

THE REVOLUTION
HAS DESTROYED
THE ERA AND TAKEN
THE PRIDE FROM
THE SAMURAI...

...THIS TIME,
GIVE ME WITH
YOUR OWN HANDS
THE GRAVE I
DESERVE!

HOWEVER
...

...PUSH
JINCHU
ANY
LONGER.

FACED WITH
DEFEAT ONCE
AGAIN, I
WILL NOT...

NOW
FINISH
ME!!

THAT IS
YOUR
DUTY!

DO YOU
THINK
SUCH AN
ANSWER IS
ACCEPTABLE
!!

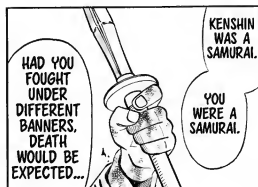
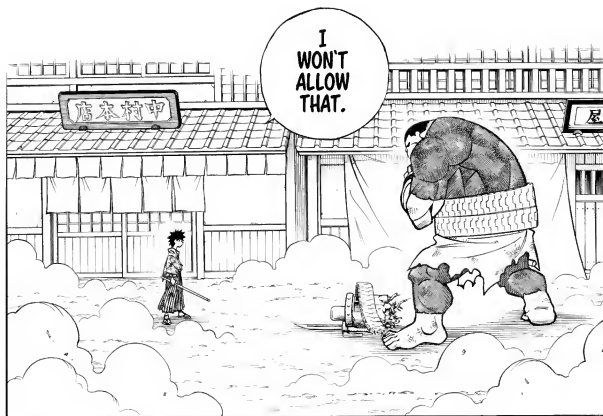
NO.

KILL
ME!! IF YOU
DON'T, I
WILL SET OFF
THE REST
OF THESE
GRENADES...

...KILLING
EVERYONE
HERE—

**CHIA
HAAKKK**

NO
MATTER WHAT
THE REASON,
THIS ONE WILL
NOT TAKE
ANOTHER LIFE.



A SAMURAI HAS
NO NEED TO
HOLD GRUDGES
AGAINST
ANOTHER
SAMURAI!

...CAN'T YOU
APPRECIATE
THE FACT YOU
ONLY LOST
YOUR RIGHT
ARM!!

THEN
WHY...



IT'S PITIFUL
FOR A SAMURAI
TO WHINE ABOUT
THOSE THINGS.



PRIDE, THE
END OF
AN ERA...

...IN THE NEW
ERA, WITH YOUR
SPARED LIFE!



IF YOU ARE A
SAMURAI, THINK
ABOUT WHAT
CAN BE DONE...

YOU'VE
ONLY BEEN
RAMPAGING WITH
THE BULLETS
IN YOUR RIGHT
ARM.

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE WITH
YOUR LEFT
ARM?!



KENSHIN
HAS FOUGHT
CONSTANTLY
TO PROTECT
THE PEOPLE!

I'LL
TAKE
YOU ONCE
AGAIN!!

IF YOU
STILL SAY
YOU'RE
GOING TO
FIGHT, NOW
WE'RE BOTH
LIMITED
TO LEFT
ARMS!

GRIP



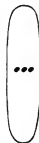
I AM
NOBODY'S
WARD!

WARD.
YOUR
NAME?

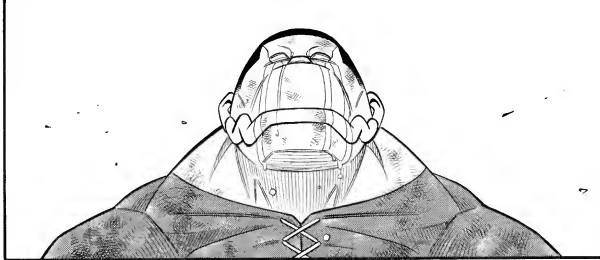


NOW,
ARE YOU,
OR ARE
YOU NOT
GOING TO
FIGHT!

MYŌJIN
YAHIKO,
A
TOKYO
SHIZOKU
!!







I AM
AT A
LOSS.

PLEASE
LIVE...

...IN
THE NEW
ERA ONCE
MORE...

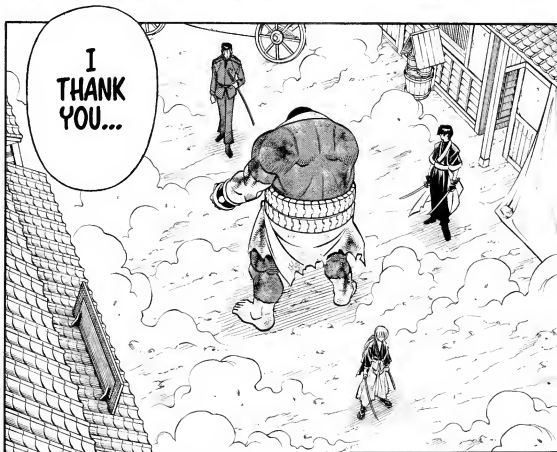
AS MYŌJIN
YAHIKO SAYS,
A SAMURAI
HAS NO NEED
TO HOLD A
GRUDGE AGAINST
ANOTHER
SAMURAI...

I
APOLOGIZE
...

TRMP

TRMP

KUJIRANAMI
HYŌGO.

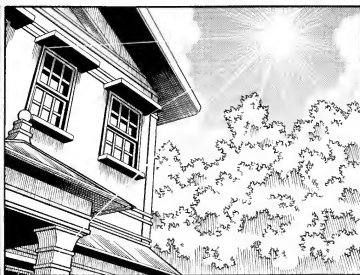


4:47 PM, KUJIRANAMI HYŌGO ARRESTED.

Act 227

Four More Days, One More Person









I
PLAN
TO.

SEEMS SO,
BUT THAT'S
NO CONCERN
TO ME
ANYMORE.

THE
ORGANIZATION
IS SOON YOURS.
YOU CAN DEAL
WITH IT.



THE
ARAKAWA
HIDEOUT
WAS
TAKEN...

IT SEEMS THAT A
MAN WITH OUR
WEAPON ON THE
STUMP OF HIS LOST
ARM RAMPAGED
THROUGH SOME CITY.



THERE'S
ONE
MORE
THING.

I GUESS
GEIN, WHO
WE FAILED
TO TAKE
CARE OF,
GAVE IT
AWAY.

THE
POLICE IN
JAPAN DO
SOME
GOOD
WORK.

HE WAS A
BIT CRAZY. SO
WHAT HAPPENED?
DID HE DIE?



KUJI-
RANAMI
?

THOUGH
I LACK
DETAILS...



...IT SEEMS
THAT A SWORDS-
MAN WITH A CROSS-
SHAPED SCAR ON
HIS LEFT CHEEK
CAME AND HELPED
QUELL HIM —



SO IT
DOES
INVOLVE
YOUR
PERSONAL
BUSINESS.

...HMM.

TMP

THIS ISLAND
IS A NATURAL
FORTRESS. SO
I'D ADVISE
YOU TO
WELCOME
THEM
HERE.

TP

TP

THE POLICE
AND THAT MAN
WILL PROBABLY
COME THIS WAY.
BUT BOSS, PLEASE
TAKE CARE OF
YOURSELF.

KENSHIN!!

...BATTŌSAI...

...RETURNED
...?

SO
THAT'S
WHY...

I
SEE.

I
GET
IT!

SHAA

IF I
KILL
THAT
MAN
....!

!!

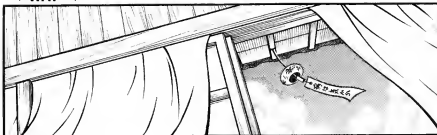
...SISTER
WILL
SMILE
FOR
ME!

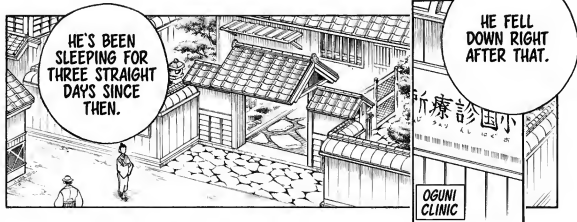
IF I
KILL
HIM WITH
MY OWN
HANDS...

THAT
WAS MY
SISTER'S
WISH!!!

SEND
THAT MAN
TO BURN
IN
THE REAL
HELL...

LIVING
HELL
IS TOO
MILD A
PUNISH-
MENT.







FOUR
DAYS.

IF HE
DOESN'T
MAKE IT,
HE'S ON
HIS OWN.

WE WILL HIT
THE ISLAND
WITH ELITE
POLICE FORCES
FOUR DAYS
FROM NOW.

IF HE
MAKES IT BY
THEN, WE'LL
GIVE YOU
GUYS A RIDE.



HE
SEEMS A
LITTLE
IRRITATED.
THOUGH IT'S
NORMAL
FOR HIM.

NO MATTER
WHAT THE
REASON, THIS
ONE WILL
NOT TAKE
ANOTHER
LIFE.

NO.

WHAT'S
THAT
ABOUT?
HIMURA'S
FINALLY
RETURNED.

I NO
LONGER
CARE TO
MATCH
MY PACE
WITH AN
IDIOT...
...WHO
KEEPS
GOING
BACK TO
THE START
AND ROLLING
THE SAME
DICE EVERY
TIME.





SO IN THE END, THAT IS YOUR STARTING LINE...



HE'S THE
ONE WHO
FOUGHT
THE
HARDEST
...

HAA



AND...

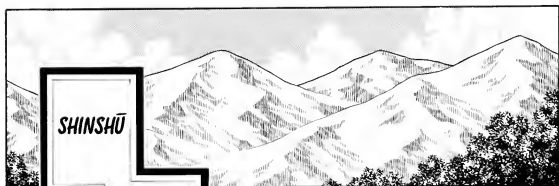
...ONE
MORE
PERSON
...



FINALLY
...

...FOUR
MORE
DAYS...





SHINSHŪ

A CERTAIN
TRAVELER'S
TOWN
ALONG THE
MAIN ROAD



I SAID
GET OUT
OF MY
WAY!

MURMUR

MURMUR

WHAT
IS THE
MEANING
OF THIS!

IF YOU
NEED TO
TALK, TALK
TO MY
DAD!

DON'T BE
SO WARY, I
JUST WANT
TO TALK.

HEY, HEY.
THIS ISN'T
A SHOW!

BOOM

酒処

YOUR FATHER'S
FISTS ARE QUICKER
THAN HIS MOUTH,
SO TALKS
ALWAYS TURN
TO FIGHTS!

SO I THOUGHT
I'D HAVE YOU
GIVE HIM A
MESSAGE. HIS
PRETTY LITTLE
DAUGHTER...

I'M BETTER
AT FIGHTING
THAN TALKING,
BUT IT
DEFEATS THE
PURPOSE IF I
KILL HIM!



EVEN
A HICK
YAKUZA
SHOULD
RELIEVE
MORE
STRESS
THAN
SAKE!

IF YOU ARE
LOOKING FOR
A FIGHT,
I'LL GIVE
YOU ONE!

DID YOU
NOT HEAR
ME SAY
"SHUT UP"?

THUMP!

To Be Continued in
Vol. 26: A Man's Back

The Secret Life of Characters (49) —Kujiranami Hyōgo—

The origin of his one-handedness is the handsome swordsman Iha Hachirō from the Bakumatsu. But there was not originally a direct link from Iha Hachirō to Kujiranami. The one-hand idea was originally reserved for Yukishiro Enishi, but I thought, "Could a one-armed man fight equally against Kenshin, who's mastered Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū?" and "Boss fights should be simple, sword vs. sword." So that was rejected. As a result, we had Iha Hachirō→Yukishiro Enishi→Kujiranami. Kujiranami was supposed to be the Terminator-like character I couldn't depict with Usui, but as the story progressed, he just turned out the way he did. When the story was being worked out, we planned on having a Terminator-like Kujiranami fight Yahiko in the city. But during this time, Watsuki's exhaustion was at its peak, and the assistants were also in the same state, so I thought, "If we do this, someone WILL die! (Destruction of buildings and people scrambling are tiring things)," so I gave up on the Terminator idea. Third time's the charm! I'll create a Terminator character next time!!

Yagyū Hanma from *Samurai Supi*, or Barrett from *FFVII* (I haven't played *FFVII* yet!) have been suggested as models in terms of design. But if you see him, you'll easily realize that the model is Apocalypse from *X-Men*. The lips are quite interesting on this guy, but since nobody would understand it, I used it here. Apocalypse in *X-Men* is Watsuki's favorite villain, equaling even the archrival Magneto. I feel true manliness in his absolute belief in the survival of the fittest, making me want to be like that as a man and as a manga artist, and be able to create characters like him.

Another theme for Kujiranami is "macho middle age fatness," which I enjoyed depicting. No matter what we say, muscles are a symbol of strength. This is a point I must master if I plan on drawing battles, so I plan to keep challenging different types of muscles.



Rurouni Kenshin



GLOSSARY of the RESTORATION

A brief guide to select Japanese terms used in *Rurouni Kenshin*. Note that, both here and within the story itself, all names are Japanese style—i.e., last or “family” name first, with personal or “given” name following. This is both because *Kenshin* is a “period” story, as well as to decrease confusion—if we were to take the example of *Kenshin*’s *sakabatō* and “reverse” the format of the historically established assassin-name “*Hitokiri Battōsai*,” for example, it would make little sense to then call him “*Battōsai Himura*.”

Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū

Kenshin’s sword technique, used more for defense than offense. An “ancient style that pits one against many,” it requires exceptional speed and agility to master.

hitokiri

An assassin. Famous swordsmen of the period were sometimes thus known to adopt “professional” names—*Kawakami Gensai*, for example, was also known as “Hitokiri Gensai.”

Ishin Shishi

Loyalist or pro-Imperialist *patriots* who fought to restore the Emperor to his ancient seat of power

jinchū

Hitokiri were fond of the word *tenchū*, or “judgment from the heavens,” which expressed their belief that judgment lay in their hands. Enishi calls his form of revenge *jinchū*, meaning that if the heavens won’t cast judgment on Kenshin, he will with his own brand of justice.

Kawakami Gensai

Real-life, historical inspiration for the character of *Himura Kenshin*

Bakumatsu

Final, chaotic days of the Tokugawa regime

-chan

Honorific. Can be used either as a diminutive (e.g., with a small child—“Little Hanako or Kentarō”), or with those who are grown, to indicate affection (“My dear...”).

-dono

Honorific. Even more respectful than *-san*; the effect in modern-day Japanese conversation would be along the lines of “Milord So-and-So.” As used by Kenshin, it indicates both respect and humility.

Edo

Capital city of the *Tokugawa Bakufu*; renamed *Tokyo* (“Eastern Capital”) after the Meiji Restoration

hakubaikō

The fragrance of white plum blossoms

Himura Kenshin

Kenshin’s “real” name, revealed to Kaoru only at her urging

-sama

Honorific. The respectful equivalent of **-san**, **-sama** is used primarily in addressing persons of much higher rank than one's self...or, in a romantic sense, in addressing those upon whom one is crushing, wicked hard.

-san

Honorific. Carries the meaning of "Mr.," "Ms.," "Miss," etc., but used more extensively in Japanese than its English equivalent (note that even an enemy may be addressed as **"-san"**).

shizoku

Replaced the term "samurai" in the new era. Made up of ex-samurai and military families, it came to be the gentry class.

shōgun

Feudal military ruler of Japan

shōgunate

See **Tokugawa Bakufu**

Tokugawa Bakufu

Military feudal government which dominated Japan from 1603 to 1867

Tokyo

The renaming of **"Edo"** to **"Tokyo"** is a marker of the start of the **Meiji Restoration**

-kun

Honorific. Used in the modern day among male students, or those who grew up together, but another usage—the one you're more likely to find in *Rurouni Kenshin*—is the "superior-to-inferior" form, intended as a way to emphasize a difference in status or rank, as well as to indicate familiarity or affection.

Kyoto

Home of the Emperor and imperial court from A.D. 794 until shortly after the **Meiji Restoration** in 1868

loyalists

Those who supported the return of the Emperor to power; **Ishin Shishi**

Meiji Restoration

1853-1868; culminated in the collapse of the **Tokugawa Bakufu** and the restoration of imperial rule. So called after Emperor Meiji, whose chosen name was written with the characters for "culture and enlightenment."

patriots

Another term for **Ishin Shishi**... and, when used by Sano, not a flattering one

rurouni

Wanderer, vagabond

sakabatō

Reversed-edge sword (the dull edge on the side the sharp should be, and vice versa); carried by Kenshin as a symbol of his resolution never to kill again